GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1597
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
FOREIGN DIPLOMATS` VISIT TO KASHMIR
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign diplomats who visited Kashmir since January 2000 and the purpose thereof ;

(b) whether the Government have been aware of the visit of these foreign dignitaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) The number of foreign diplomats who visited Kashmir since January, 2000, as per information available with the Ministry of External Affairs, is six. The purpose of these visits varied from calls on the high dignitaries of the State, accompanying visiting delegation from their country and to familiarise themselves.

(b) Yes Sir, the Government were aware of the visits of above mentioned foreign diplomats.

(c) 1) Mr. Chris Cooter, First Secretary (Political), Canadian High Commission, New Delhi on January 20, 2000;2) H.E. Sir Rob Young, British High Commissioner along with Lady Young from 21.5.2000 to 23.5.2000;3) H.E. Mr. Chong-Moo Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea accompanied by Mr. Yeon Ho Choi, Counsellor in the Embassy from 7.6.2000 to 10.6.2000;4) H.E. Mr. Truls Hanevold, Ambassador of Norway from 19.6.2000 to 20.6.2000;5) H.E. Mr. P.C.F. Koch, Ambassador of the Netherlands from 25.7.2000 to 28.7.2000.

(d) Question does not arise.